

those on board, those on the ground, and fully and safely and effectively integrated into the national airspace system.

The interagency working group and subsequent AAM National Strategy on safety, security, and infrastructure will help support the development and deployment of AAM and advance U.S. leadership in this growing global industry.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsors of the original House bill, Representatives SHARICE DAVIDS and GARRET GRAVES, for their bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, I support S. 516, as amended, and I urge all my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, to maintain safe airspace, we know we have to have coordination. Think about all of the moving parts that are required to keep people safe in that shared resource. That kind of coordination is also important at the Federal level if we want to keep everybody safe, and if we want to make sure AAM keeps moving in the right direction.

That is what S. 516 does, the Advanced Air Mobility Coordination and Leadership Act. It makes sure that we are able to continue moving forward and that AAM has the Federal support it needs from a variety of agencies to be successful.

As the chairman mentioned, we had a similar bill, H.R. 1339, which passed the House overwhelmingly, 383 yeas to 41 nays.

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I think we all realize that that kind of strong bipartisan support is not always as typical around here as we would like. Of course, this has got a Senate number so, of course, we have strong bicameral support as well. Indeed, the text that is before us today has been amended, and so it reflects language that has been negotiated and agreed upon, Mr. Speaker, by both Chambers.

This sort of bipartisan, bicameral agreement ensures that industry and government can start to hash out these questions on the tough and sometimes thorny issues that have to be addressed so that we make sure that innovative new entrants are able to operate safely within our transportation system.

We know that it is not always easy to deal with the Senate—our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol—but my hope is that once we pass this legislation, they will quickly take up the amended bill and send it to the President's desk for speedy signing into law.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Congresswoman SHARICE DAVIDS, as well as Aviation Subcommittee Ranking Member GARRET GRAVES, whom I am normally loath to say anything good about, but in this instance, I will. I

thank them both for their leadership on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE).

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, advanced air mobility has the potential to revolutionize personal transportation in the United States.

Imagine a future just a few years from now where instead of summoning a taxicab, Mr. Speaker, you walk several blocks to a nearby vertiport where an autonomous aerial vehicle comes down to pick you up, hovers briefly, touches down, the doors open for you, and it takes you straight to your destination at a cost similar to calling an Uber today. That is the potential of advanced air mobility. Unfortunately, it is going to require the coordination and cooperation of many different Federal, State, and local government agencies to realize its potential.

There are many thorny problems that have to be solved before that reality is available to us, for example, problems around the certification of these vehicles and problems around the regulation of the industry.

Are they regulated like a taxicab operator, or are they regulated like an air carrier?

Who pays for and conducts the planning for these vertiports?

What considerations are there for aircraft noise?

What certification standards surround the autonomous vehicle software that controls these aerial vehicles?

All of these are problems that will have to be solved before this can become a reality.

If we are not careful about laying the foundation for success with this industry, then, unfortunately, regulation will serve to crush this optimistic future instead of catalyzing it.

That is why I am so happy that we are considering two important bills with respect to advanced air mobility on the floor of the House today. The first of these bills will establish a working group of different government agencies whose coordination and cooperation will be necessary to solve some of these regulatory problems that face this burgeoning industry.

The second of these bills will establish a new grant program for the planning and development of the infrastructure necessary to support advanced air mobility.

Mr. Speaker, together these bills represent a very meaningful first investment in this incredibly exciting new industry. I urge support, and I am happy to see the House take up these bills tonight.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman from California just did a wonderful job rattling off a number of key questions that policymakers have to settle on before we can make sure that AAM is safely integrated into our existing airports and airspace. This bill will do much to make sure that we have the coordination that will be necessary to answer those questions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, we have just heard the bipartisan consensus expressed by the two speakers on that side about the looming extraordinary importance of this industry and how we have to get it right as we move forward to not impede it but also to protect safety.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly recommend this legislation to my colleagues, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 516, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

#### POST-DISASTER ASSISTANCE ONLINE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2020) to provide for an online repository for certain reporting requirements for recipients of Federal disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2020

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act”.

#### SEC. 2. SUBPAGE FOR TRANSPARENCY OF DISASTER ASSISTANCE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF REPOSITORY FOR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the head of each covered Federal agency, shall establish a subpage within the website established under section 2 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) to publish the information required to be made available to the public under this section.

(b) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Not later than 30 days after

the end of a calendar quarter, each covered Federal agency that made disaster assistance available to an eligible recipient during such quarter shall, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, make available to the public on the subpage established under subsection (a) the information described in subsection (c), and ensure that any data asset of the agency is machine-readable.

(c) **INFORMATION REQUIRED.**—The information described in this subsection is, with respect to disaster assistance provided by the covered Federal agency—

(1) the total amount of disaster assistance provided by the agency during such quarter;

(2) the amount of disaster assistance provided by the agency that was expended or obligated to projects or activities; and

(3) a detailed list of all projects or activities for which disaster assistance dispersed by the agency was expended, obligated, or used, including—

(A) the name of the project or activity;

(B) a description of the project or activity;

(C) an evaluation of the completion status of the project or activity;

(D) any award identification number assigned to the project;

(E) the Catalog for Disaster Assistance number assigned by the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(F) the location of the project, including ZIP codes; and

(G) any reporting requirement information being collected by a covered Federal agency with respect to that agency's disaster assistance.

(d) **GUIDANCE.**—Each covered Federal agency, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall issue such guidance as is necessary to meet the requirements of this Act.

(e) **AGREEMENT WITH PRIVATE ENTITY.**—The Director, if necessary for purposes of transparency, may enter into an agreement with a private entity, including a nonprofit organization, to develop the subpage required under this section.

### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) **COVERED FEDERAL AGENCY.**—The term “covered Federal agency” means—

(A) any agency providing assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.);

(B) the Small Business Administration; and

(C) the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(2) **DISASTER ASSISTANCE.**—The term “disaster assistance” means any funds that are made available by the Federal Government in response to a specified natural disaster, including—

(A) any assistance provided by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration as a result of a disaster declared under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b));

(B) any assistance provided by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for—

(i) activities authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); and

(ii) flood insurance coverage provided under the National Flood Insurance Program

pursuant to the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.); and

(C) any assistance provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

(3) **ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.**—The term “eligible recipient” —

(A) means any entity that receives disaster assistance directly from the Federal Government (including disaster assistance received through grant, loan, or contract) other than an individual; and

(B) includes a State that receives disaster assistance.

(4) **SPECIFIED NATURAL DISASTER.**—The term “specified natural disaster” means—

(A) a fire on public or private forest land or grassland described in section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187);

(B) a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5170);

(C) an emergency declared by the President under section 501 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5191); and

(D) any other natural disaster for which a disaster declaration is made by the Federal Government.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2020.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2020. This bill would create a new online system for tracking Federal disaster projects and assistance.

When a major disaster strikes, the American people should know how and where their disaster funds are being spent without wading through reams of governmental paperwork. This legislation simplifies the data collection process for Federal disaster recovery projects.

To increase transparency to the public, the bill would also create a page on USAspending.gov where everyone can track agency disaster recovery activities and the amount of assistance expended by an agency on a quarterly basis. Federal agencies need to be held accountable to the victims of disasters so that they can have peace of mind when they are at their most vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides to join me and support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,  
Washington, DC, June 10, 2022.

Hon. PETER A. DEFAZIO,  
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DEFAZIO: I am writing with respect to H.R. 2020, the “Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act”. Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Small Business regarding the matters in H.R. 2020 that fall within the Committee's jurisdiction.

As a result of your consultation with us on this measure and in order to expeditiously move the bill to the floor, I forego further consideration of H.R. 2020. The Committee on Small Business takes this action with our mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our jurisdiction. Further, I request your support for the appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from the Committee on Small Business during any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming our understanding regarding H.R. 2020 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Committee Report and the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the measure. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ,  
Chairwoman.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, June 10, 2022.

Hon. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ,  
Chairwoman, Committee on Small Business,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR Ms. VELÁZQUEZ: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2020, the *Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act*. I appreciate your decision to waive formal consideration of the bill.

I agree that the Committee on Small Business has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I further agree that by forgoing formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on Small Business is not waiving any jurisdiction over any relevant subject matter. Additionally, if requested I will support the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Small Business should a House-Senate conference be convened on this legislation. Finally, this exchange of letters will be included in the *Congressional Record* when the bill is considered on the floor.

Thank you again, and I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the Committee on Small Business on this important issue.

Sincerely,

PETER A. DEFAZIO,  
Chair.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, it is often said that sunshine is the best disinfectant. It is said so often because it is true, and certainly, it is true in public affairs.

This is a commonsense accountability measure introduced by my Republican colleague from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN), and I applaud her for this.

It is going to increase transparency for post-disaster Federal assistance. It makes sure for citizens who are curious—exactly as the chairman said—who want this information about what the Federal Government has done to help communities in need without their having to go on some massive research project. This gives them an opportunity in a clear and concise way to get a sense of what their Federal Government has done to respond to these disasters. This increased transparency is going to allow the American taxpayers to see where their hard-earned dollars are going.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, again, as the gentleman has just said, having some transparency when you have a number of Federal agencies coming into a community that has just been devastated, whether it is in my region by wildfire or on the Gulf Coast by a hurricane or in the Midwest and the South by tornado, people need timely and good information about how the disaster relief is flowing from the Federal Government, in what amounts, and to what places so that there can be actual oversight by people who were directly impacted by the disaster.

That is why I believe this legislation has tremendous merit. I recommend that my colleagues lend their full support to it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2020, the “Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act.”

H.R. 2020 is a bipartisan initiative to establish an online repository for reporting requirements for recipients of Federal disaster assistance.

I would like to thank my colleague, Delegate GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, for introducing this legislation to increase transparency of post-disaster assistance.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) along with the Secretary of the Treasury and the head of each covered Federal agency will collaborate to create a subpage within the website, [www.usaspending.gov](http://www.usaspending.gov), to make the following information available to the public:

Total amount of disaster assistance provided by the agency during quarter;

Amount of disaster assistance provided by the agency that was expanded or obligated to projects or activities; and

Detailed list of all projects or activities for which disaster assistance dispersed by the agency was expended including:

Name and description of project or activity;

Evaluation of the completion status;

Any award identification number assigned;

Catalog Disaster Assistance number assigned by FEMA;

Location of the project, including zip codes; and

Any reporting requirement information collected by a covered Federal agency with respect to that agency's disaster assistance.

H.R. 2020 will require the submission of information by covered federal agencies every 3 months.

When enacted, H.R. 2020 would include natural disasters that are major disasters or emergency declared by the President as well as any other natural disaster made by the Federal Government.

Within the past decade, we have witnessed an increase in the number of natural disasters and extreme weather as a result of climate change.

In 2021, the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) found that the United States experienced 20 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters.

Houston alone has been the site of 7 federally declared disasters since 2015 notably including Hurricane Harvey and Winter Storm Uri.

The growing number of natural disasters makes this legislation increasingly relevant to maintain accountability of post-disaster funds.

H.R. 2020 creates a necessary online reference portal that will be accessible by mayors, legislators, and residents to know the status of funds and their use.

These funds are vital to communities devastated by natural disasters and it is important that we ensure the funds are used for their assigned use.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2020.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2020.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

#### SMALL STATE AND RURAL RESCUE ACT

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7211) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, review a final rule of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7211

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Small State and Rural Rescue Act”.

#### SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF SMALL STATE AND RURAL ADVOCATE.

Section 326(c) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5165d) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (2);

(2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) assist States in the collection and presentation of material in the disaster or emergency declaration request relevant to demonstrate severe localized impacts within the State for a specific incident, including—

“(A) the per capita personal income by local area, as calculated by the Bureau of Economic Analysis;

“(B) the disaster impacted population profile, as reported by the Bureau of the Census, including—

“(i) the percentage of the population for whom poverty status is determined;

“(ii) the percentage of the population already receiving Government assistance such as Supplemental Security Income and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits;

“(iii) the pre-disaster unemployment rate;

“(iv) the percentage of the population that is 65 years old and older;

“(v) the percentage of the population 18 years old and younger;

“(vi) the percentage of the population with a disability;

“(vii) the percentage of the population who speak a language other than English and speak English less than ‘very well’; and

“(viii) any unique considerations regarding American Indian and Alaskan Native Tribal populations raised in the State’s request for a major disaster declaration that may not be reflected in the data points referenced in this subparagraph;

“(C) the impact to community infrastructure, including—

“(i) disruptions to community life-saving and life-sustaining services;

“(ii) disruptions or increased demand for essential community services; and

“(iii) disruptions to transportation, infrastructure, and utilities; and

“(D) any other information relevant to demonstrate severe local impacts.”.

#### SEC. 3. GAO REVIEW OF A FINAL RULE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General shall conduct a review of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s implementation of its final rule, published on March 21, 2019, amending section 206.48(b) of title 44, Code of Federal Regulations (regarding factors considered when evaluating a Governor’s request for a major disaster declaration), which revised the factors that the Agency considers when evaluating a Governor’s request for a major disaster declaration authorizing individual assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

(b) SCOPE.—The review required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the criteria used by the Agency to assess individual assistance requests following a major disaster declaration authorizing individual assistance.

(2) An assessment of the consistency with which the Agency uses the updated Individual Assistance Declaration Factors when assessing the impact of individual communities after a major disaster declaration.

(3) An assessment of the impact, if any, of using the updated Individual Assistance Declaration Factors has had on equity in disaster recovery outcomes.

(4) Recommendations to improve the use of the Individual Assistance Declaration Factors to increase equity in disaster recovery outcomes.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the